

Chemist & Druggist

11 August 1973

THE NEWSWEEKLY FOR PHARMACY

Publicly-
operated
pharmacies

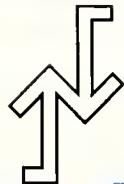
General sale
animal
medicines

Research
into a new
sunscreen



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11 August Vol. 200 No. 4873

The newsweekly for pharmacy

114th year of publication

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Benn »

Official organ of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland and of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland

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What to do when your customers ask for pHisoHex

You are probably aware that in accordance with the new regulations limiting the hexachlorophene content of medicines, pHisoHex is now withdrawn from free sale over the counter.

If you haven't already returned surplus stocks of pHisoHex to your wholesaler, please do so now and you will receive a credit.

So what do you do now when a customer asks for pHisoHex?

Recommend New Formula pHisoHex

There is now a new over-the-counter preparation called New Formula pHisoHex which complies with the new regulations. Tests carried out enable us to say that New Formula pHisoHex can be as efficient for the management of spots and pimples, and your customers who have used the old formulation in the past can be reassured with confidence that New Formula pHisoHex works.



New Formula pHisoHex will be promoted as heavily as its predecessor.

A concentrated national advertising campaign using all the main teenage magazines will again be telling your customers that 'Spots Hate Clean Skin'.

Also available is striking display material.

You will remember the success you had with pHisoHex in the past. Now once again you can display and recommend a research backed preparation for the treatment of spots and pimples - New Formula pHisoHex.

New prescription-only preparation

For prescriptions there is a new product, which is known as pHisoMed. Like its predecessor, pHisoMed provides 3% hexachlorophene and doctors will be prescribing it for acne vulgaris.



WINTHROP

pHisoHex and pHisoMed are registered trade marks.

Labour's plan for publicly-operated medicine supplies

New warnings of Labour's intention to nationalise the pharmaceutical industry—and of a plan to arrange for "publicly-operated supplies of medicine"—were given by Mr John Silkin, the Party's front bench spokesman on health matters last week.

In a speech to the Welsh Division of the National Union of Public Employees and the Welsh Confederation of Health Service Employees, he said that there were those who believed that the need for public ownership in the pharmaceutical industry arose because of the over-charging that takes place by suppliers of drugs to the NHS.

"The drug suppliers always say that their products are expensive because of the research that goes into them. In fact the bulk of research is paid for by the taxpayer through the Medical Research Council and to those engaged on medical and pharmaceutical research at our universities financed through the University Grants Committee.

"But there is a deeper reason for public ownership. The aim of drug companies to sell their products whether the need exists or not. It has become too easy for GPs, bombarded by advertisements from the drug interests, simply to prescribe tranquillisers and sleeping pills for those of their patients who suffer from stress. We may thus be in danger of becoming a nation of neurotics and I regard it as urgent that we take the necessary steps to avoid this by exercising tighter public control over the drug industry.

"Supplies of drugs and medicines are badly organised. London is, I believe, the only town which contains 'all night' chemists and many rural areas throughout the country and particularly in Wales have no chemist shop within easy reach—even during the daytime.

"We must see to it, therefore, that publicly operated supplies of medicine are available everywhere. This is an obvious need in time of emergency but even in normal day-to-day treatment it is vitally necessary.

"Fortunately the 1946 National Health Act and all the Acts that have followed it give the Government power to intervene in the pharmaceutical industry either by manufacture or distribution. We do not even need another Act of Parliament to do this—we can set it up after a simple debate of one hour and a half in the House of Commons, and this is a power which we will use." Comment p18.

Housing estates lose pharmacies

Closure of 22 pharmacies resulted in a total loss of pharmaceutical services to their areas, a Pharmaceutical Society report on last year's closures indicates. Most of

the pharmacies concerned had been on housing estates some distance from the nearest town shopping centres.

A total of 454 closures had occurred over the year, the report shows, whereas 176 had opened giving a net reduction of 278. Of the new pharmacies, 14 were classified as providing a service in an area not previously covered.

NPU negotiating pension scheme for its members

With legislation promised to make retirement benefits for employees essential before 1975 pharmacists are already experiencing pressure from insurance companies and brokers to take action immediately, say the National Pharmaceutical Union.

In a letter to its members NPU are recommending its members not to take individual action at this stage because the NPU Executive Committee is currently negotiating a nationwide scheme with its pensions consultants, Stewart Wrightson Assurance Consultants Ltd which is due to be launched on January 1, 1974. The terms they hope to negotiate would not be possible for individuals. NPU say, and the benefit of the arrangement will extend to proprietors and directors as well as employees. Further information is promised as soon as possible.

Output of pharmaceuticals dips in first quarter

The output of pharmaceutical chemicals and preparations in the first quarter of the year fell by over 7 per cent compared with the last quarter of 1972. The index at 222 compares with 239 for the previous quarter (1963 was the basic year 100). The figures published in *Trade and Industry Journal* last week show that not since the first quarter of 1972 when the

Mrs Janet Voisey, an assistant at Williams Chemists in Padstow is setting off with her husband for a second honeymoon in Benidorm thanks to a Wellcome Foundation competition. Her holiday voucher worth £60, was presented to her by David Head, Wellcome area manager, with Robin Sala looking on.

index was 208, has production been as low.

The home market price index for pharmaceutical chemicals is 113·6 in the first quarter compared with 113·8 in the immediate preceding quarter while the indexes for pharmaceutical preparations were 109·8 and 109·7.

Exports of pharmaceuticals valued at £48·5m during the quarter were nearly £7m higher than in the corresponding 1972 quarter while imports were £4·5m higher at £15·6.

Output of the chemical industry as a whole was 2 per cent above the high level reached in the first quarter of 1972.

Britain now No. 4 in export league

In a foreword to the annual report of the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry, the president for the year under review, 1972-73, Mr Ivar McG Boden, recalls that exports from the industry at £181m were a record. Nevertheless, he warns, whilst in 1960 Britain was No. 2 in the league of world pharmaceutical exporters, the position was now No. 4 as international competition grows.

Barbiturates cause more problems than opiates'

Drugs found in most homes cause more addiction problems than heroin and LSD, according to an organisation which helps drug addicts and alcoholics. The annual report of the Helping Hand Organisation published this week cites Tuinal, Nembutal, Sodium Amytal and Ritalin as being commonly used by addicts.

A survey carried out at the Hungerford Day Centre in London revealed that 35 out of 50 addicts using the centre had first experimented with drugs, mainly tranquilisers, from their family medicine cupboard. Barbiturates are popular, says the report, because they are cheaper than other drugs, easier to obtain, and the intoxication induced lasts longer for the price. The report adds that it would seem that the use of opiates is contained, but there is a growing use of barbiturates and amphetamines. "This is a matter for considerable concern as these drugs are less easy to control and can cause more physical and mental damage to the individual than the controlled use of opiates."



Assistant 'unfairly sacked', says Industrial Tribunal

A young Hamilton, Scotland, shop assistant who claimed she had been wrongfully sacked from her job appealed to the Industrial Tribunal—and she has won what has been called a "disturbing" case.

The unfair dismissal action was taken against Boots Ltd by 18-year-old Doreen Jack, who had been with the company for three years. She and four other young female assistants were sacked from the Regent Way branch on May 14. She alone appealed.

The sackings came after a stock investigator's probe into "serious" stock losses at the store—a separate matter not yet resolved. The girls, however, were dismissed for their alleged involvement in what the Tribunal describes as "the very minor misappropriation of chocolate bars". The Tribunal said the case was a "disturbing and distressing one". Evidence implicating Doreen Jack was said to be insufficient and conflicting, although two senior employees claimed that the girl admitted to them that she had taken chocolate without paying for it.

But the fact that young female employees had been interviewed by staff in connection with possible criminal activities, when there was no adult present to look after their interests, also disturbed the Tribunal.

The evidence against Doreen Jack was confused and would certainly not stand up in court, the Tribunal found. Boots' solicitor had agreed with this, and had said that for this reason the police had not been involved. They unanimously decided that the girl's complaints were "well-founded", that she had been unfairly dismissed, and that Boots should pay her £60 as compensation for loss of wages.

The original sum decided was £115, but they deducted social security and unemployment benefits which had been received since her sacking. The Tribunal had been told that the girl had been unable to get another job in a chemist's, and she felt that the circumstances of her dismissal were the root cause of this.

Dispensing of 'urgent' scripts queried

Copies of 60 prescriptions, marked 'urgent' and dispensed at an Essex pharmacy on Sundays in February, were sent for consideration to Essex Executive Council by the Joint Pricing Committee for England. The Committee felt that the pharmacy may have been open regularly on Sundays, in which case the 'urgent' fees could not be claimed, reports *The Executive Council*.

The pharmacist concerned was able to satisfy the Council that the prescriptions were dispensed such that the 'urgent' fee applied. However the Council decided to

remind doctors about the circumstances under which prescriptions should be marked 'urgent', and to review the position after six months.

Roche's 'basic faith' in UK market

Since the Monopolies Commission Report on the supply of chlordiazepoxide and diazepam was published, Roche Products Ltd say several rumours have circulated concerning the possible withdrawal by them from the United Kingdom market as a result of which they have issued the following statement:

'Notwithstanding the difficulties currently being experienced by Roche at the hands of the Government we maintain a basic faith in the future of the company in the United Kingdom and shall continue to produce and market our products in this country in the hope that the Government will eventually see its way to paying fair prices.'

'There will be certain additions to the product list again this year. These will include the introduction of at least two products which, although they are of no commercial value, are medical 'breakthroughs'. This practice of introducing uneconomic but medically important compounds has always been a feature of Roche pharmaceutical activity, and this will continue.'

'The recently expanded Roche research

in the UK will go ahead as planned. As was said at the opening of the new £2m research building last month.

'The programme envisages further capital expenditure by Roche in the UK amounting to several million pounds over the next few years. Finance for this will have to be provided by the Swiss company because the UK cash flow is insufficient as a result of the Order prices following the Monopolies Commission Report.'

Ton of unwanted medicines collected in Portsmouth

Six drugs controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 were among more than a ton of unwanted medicines handed into pharmacies during Portsmouth's medicine spring clean.

The drugs, collected during the three-week campaign a month before the current Act came into effect included 12 injections of diamorphine, 23 injections and suppositories of morphine, 282 pethidine, 42 methadone, and 263 dipipanone tablets and 495 tablets and capsules of methaqualone.

Drugs used to treat infections formed the largest proportion, followed closely by iron and vitamin preparations.

Shampoo manufacturers to substantiate 'ad' claims

Eleven shampoo manufacturers in Canada must substantiate their advertising claims by mid-August.

A Cosmetic, Toiletry and Fragrance Association newsletter says that the Federal Trade Commission are asking for substantiation for claims such as 'gentle', 'conditions', 'natural', 'effectively prevents flaking, scaling and itching of the scalp', 'unlike other shampoos.' The companies involved must submit a summary of the substantiating material in plain language so that 'the average consumer will be aided in understanding it.'

Constitution for area committees approved

The constitution for the new Area Chemist Contractors Committees has been approved by Sir Keith Joseph.

In a letter to general practice pharmacists in England and Wales, the Central NHS (Chemist Contractors) Committee point out that the Area Chemist Contractors Committee will consist of either 9 or 15 members.

For the Committee of 15 the constitution shall be:

- not less than nine chemist contractor representatives elected by chemist contractors in the area;
- two pharmacist nominees of the Company Chemists' Association provided that members of the Association have premises under contract in the area;
- one pharmacist nominee of the Co-operative Society provided that the Society has/have premises under contract in the area;
- one pharmacist employed by chemist contractors elected by employee pharmacists in the area.

The constitution of the Committee of nine shall be:

- not less than six chemist contractor

representatives elected by chemist contractors in the area;

- one pharmacist nominee of the Company Chemists' Association provided that member of the Association has/have premises under contract in the area;
- one pharmacist nominee of the Co-operative Society provided that the Society has/have premises under contract in the area;
- one pharmacist employed by chemist contractors elected by employee pharmacists in the area.

If there are no premises owned by Co-operative Societies under contract in the area, the place will be filled by another chemist contractor representative.

Registered pharmacists shall be eligible for election if engaged in the Part IV pharmaceutical service under the Act in the area. Electors must be registered pharmacists or corporate bodies that are "persons lawfully conducting retail pharmacy businesses" engaged in the pharmaceutical service within the area. The terms of office for members of the Committee will be four years, and the proposed timetable is as published in C&D July 28.

Appeal to US pharmacists by Sen. Kennedy

Senator Edward Kennedy, chairman of the US Senate health subcommittee, is seeking the pharmaceutical profession's support in the reform of the country's "health care delivery system".

In an address to the American Pharmaceutical Association on July 22, he said his subcommittee would be looking into current practices of the drug industry—why unbranded products cost so much less than branded, why drugs sold for different prices overseas (including reference to the Roche proceedings in Britain), "excessive profits" in the industry, and the impact of detailment on doctors' prescribing habits, for example.

Senator Kennedy said that pharmacists had already shown willingness to represent the interests of the American people, and he now wished to enlist them "as leading members in a great national effort to be sure that all Americans have access to the highest quality medical care without fear of cost."

Among the Senator's proposals was that pharmacists should be given the option to substitute less expensive, but equally effective, brands for those ordered—"assuming the Food and Drug Administration fulfills its responsibilities to assure the quality of manufactured drugs." Pharmacists could also actively participate, through patient record systems, in reducing adverse drug reactions and interactions—bringing about an improvement in care and at the same time saving money.

Alleging inappropriate use of drugs by some physicians, Senator Kennedy added: "I believe we must develop a system where the pharmacist knows the reason for each prescription. At the very least he could be sure that the patient knows what drug he is taking, how to take it, and whether or not it is experimental." The Senator said he was not advocating interference with the practice of medicine, but "peer review" by members of a health care team, representing a variety of interrelated disciplines, all of whom could contribute to the comprehensive treatment of the patient.

He promised that his health care proposals would aim to ensure the survival of the community pharmacist and encourage development of active roles for him as a full member of the health care team.

US pharmacists to have public relations programme

The American Pharmaceutical Association is to launch a year-long public relations programme next January in association with a public relations firm.

The objectives of the plan will include

The manufacturing and research complex of Roussel Laboratories Ltd has been presented with the British Safety Council's Industrial Safety Award. Representing Roussel at the presentation was Mr Leonard A. Wells (chief security and safety officer), seen (centre) with Mrs Wells and Mr F. Love (secretary, BSC)



"creating a strong, positive image of the pharmacist as a health professional of recognised service to his community; rendering a public service to the country by providing information and advice on self-medication and over-the-counter preparations; and strengthening the credibility and public approval of the profession in all public positions and programmes it undertakes".

Activities planned include a motion picture, television featurette and spot announcements, radio programmes and newspaper material. The programme will be launched by the APhA with support from the PR firm of Henry J. Kaufman during National Pharmacy Week, January 20-26.

The handling of radiopharmaceuticals

The trend towards the use of short lived radioisotopes has placed greater responsibility on the local dispenser. Previously, the manufacturer carried much of the responsibility for the long lived radiopharmaceuticals said Dr P. W. Horton, senior physicist, Department of Clinical Physics and Bio-Engineering, Western Regional Hospital Board, Glasgow.

Speaking on "Radioisotope preparations and their uses" at an evening meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society Scottish Department in March, Dr Horton said that short lived pharmaceuticals must be prepared close to the place of use. Pharmaceutically acceptable procedures and standards for dispensing radioactive substances have therefore been developed at regional and local levels.

Outlining the problems involved in quality control, Dr Horton said that radiopharmaceuticals must be doubly specified for their radioactive properties and the non-radio-active constituents present. Formulation is further complicated by the continual radio active disintegration of the preparation, and the presence of such activity may degrade the non-radioactive constituents over a period of time. Because of the changing specification, radiopharmaceuticals must be assayed close to the time of administration and not at the time of production.

Sterility testing, for example, must be done after administration to the patient, therefore rigid maintenance of good dispensing techniques and use of BP quality materials are essential as testing can only

ensure in retrospect that standards are being maintained.

DITB careers leaflets on distribution

The first five in a series of careers leaflets covering various jobs and trades in the distributive industry, have been produced by the Distributive Industry Training Board. Entitled "Stepping Out In Distribution" the leaflets deal with the most common jobs in the industry—sales staff, the buyer, sales representative, display staff and retail manager.

Following consultation with various trade associations these titles will be followed later in the year with further leaflets dealing with other sections, starting with wholesaling.

The leaflets are being distributed to schools and careers officers by the Central Youth Employment Executive.

Every levy-payer is entitled to a free copy of the leaflets but there will be a charge of £5.50 per 100 for firms and trade associations who wish to obtain bulk supplies (from D.I.T.B., MacLaren House, Talbot Road, Stretford, Manchester M32 0FP).

More price increases approved

Price rises in baby foods, perfumes and cyanide were agreed by the Price Commission this week.

Reckitt & Colman's baby foods go up by 4½ to 9p trade price per dozen packets on August 13. There will be a price rise of 6·4 per cent on Morny and Lentheric toilet soaps and perfumes from August 17. A rise of 4·07 per cent in the cost of sodium cyanide made by ICI will be effective immediately.

Macleans brand share

Due to a typing error, Macleans Freshmint and White Fluoride brands were represented as holding only 6 per cent of the toothpaste market, in the survey published in C&D July 28. In fact, say Beecham, the brands are shown by several independent research sources to hold over 20 per cent, and they lead the brand-share table in chemists. Aquafresh, currently available in Harlech and Trident areas, is a blue gel with white stripes—there are not two versions as suggested in the article.

Company News

Unichem increase interim rebate

Unichem Ltd announced this week that they will be paying an interim members rebate of 3½ per cent for the first half of 1973. This is the third increase announced by Unichem in consecutive half-year periods. Rebate cheques will be posted on August 31.

Announcing the increase Peter Dodd, managing director, said that the increase reflected both the increased turnover and profitability of the company whose membership had increased by 70 per cent in the last year.

It is expected that the rebate for the full year of 1973 will be announced not later than in March 1974. The board state that in their opinion the rebate level of 3½ per cent will be at least maintained.

Nicholas' net earnings increase 'will be marginal'

Group sales of Nicholas International Ltd for the financial year to June 30 are estimated to exceed those of the previous year by 14 per cent notwithstanding the changes in exchange rates over that period, state the directors. The sales increase in local currencies exceeded 20 per cent. It is expected, however, that any increase in net earnings will be marginal as a result of inflation, the adverse effect of currency changes and the introduction of staff profit sharing. A final dividend of 3½ per cent is declared, making a total of 6½ per cent for the year.

Syntex acquire Fermodyn

Syntex Corporation of the United States have acquired the Fermodyn group of affiliated companies in a cash transaction. The Fermodyn companies who market hair products which are distributed exclusively through beauty and hairdressing saloons are located in the United States, Canada and Belgium. There are distribution arrangements and marketing rights in other areas. For the last year Fermodyn sales are estimated at approximately \$5m.

Sangers' share capital

Subsequent to the issue of Ordinary stock in connection with the acquisition of Evans Gadd & Co Ltd, Sangers Ltd feel that the Group has an inadequate amount of unissued capital. They are proposing that the authorised share capital should be increased to £2·55m from the present £2·30m by the creation of 1m Ordinary shares of £0·25.

LRC to pay more

For the year ended March 31, LRC International Ltd's profit rose to £5·24m against £4·27m in the previous year. This

was from a turnover up from £55·47m to £60·33m. After tax the net balance was £3·34m against £2·52m. The gross equivalent dividend for the year is 4·2p against 4p per share.

Pharmacy changes hands

Wandless Chemists, 21 Lowther Street, Whitehaven, Cumberland, has been acquired by Edmonson & Voght Ltd, Kendal, who will continue to trade at Whitehaven as Wandless Chemists. The change of ownership follows the retirement of Mr and Mrs Leslie Cormack. The firm was founded by Mrs Jessie Cormack's father and she served an apprenticeship with her father, qualifying as a pharmacist and returning to manage the business. Mr and Mrs Cormack's daughter, Mrs Marian Neat, is also a pharmacist, managing a business in Ipswich.

Briefly

Li-Lo Ltd have moved to Albert Drive, Sheerwater Estate, Woking, Surrey, GU21 5LH (tel: Woking 70044).

Boots Farm Sales Ltd have acquired Profarma, the retail trading division of CIBA-Geigy (UK) Ltd. Profarma's annual turnover is given as over £7m.

Nivea Toiletries Ltd is the new trading title adopted by Southalls (Sales) Ltd.

Appointments

Syntex Pharmaceuticals Ltd have appointed Mr Barrie Haigh, MPS, their director of marketing with effect from September 1. Mr Haigh, formerly the company's group marketing manager, succeeds Mr Ronald Levin, FPS, who is resigning in order to take up a senior appointment with another pharmaceutical company.

Mr Haigh, 35, joined Syntex as an area sales manager in 1966 after which he held a number of appointments including training officer, field sales manager, sales manager (UK ethicals division) and, since February, group marketing manager.

SANGERS

LIMITED

(Wholesale Chemists)

Record Sales and Profits

Highlights from the Statement
by the Chairman, Mr. H. T. Nicholson

- Turnover up by a record £6m, an increase of 20%.
- Profit before Tax up 28% to a new record of £1.561m.
- Dividend increased by 5% maximum allowed to equivalent of 27.3% gross.
- Two new branches to be opened in the current year.
- The new form of trading which we started on 1st June, 1973, under the name of APOCAIRE received an enthusiastic welcome from our customers.
- Our thanks to our customers (many of whom are stockholders) for their continued support, which we will strive always to merit.
- Sales in the current year have continued to increase, which should lead to higher profits with an increased dividend.

SALIENT FIGURES FROM THE ACCOUNTS

Years to end of February	1973	1972
	£	£
Sales	37,493,000	31,259,000
Profit before Tax	1,561,000	1,215,000
Profit after Tax	933,000	720,000
Retained Profit	618,000	306,000
Rate of Ordinary Dividend (Gross)	27.3%	26.0%

The Report and Accounts for the year ended 28th February, 1973 were approved at the Annual General Meeting held on 8th August, 1973.

The increase in Share Capital and the Share Option Scheme were approved at the Extraordinary General Meeting held after the Annual General Meeting.



Macarthy's Ltd have appointed to their board Mr Peter Barratt, MPS (left) as director of southern region and Mr Geoff Haselden, MPS, director of midland region.

Pitney-Bowes Ltd have appointed Mr Sidney Collings general manager of their newly-formed labelling systems division.

Boots: Mr Derek Cargill, head of the distribution services of the Boots Co Ltd, has been appointed a director of Boots The Chemists Ltd.

Carter-Wallace Ltd: Mr N. J. Harris has been promoted to the new position of deputy sales manager; Mr D. P. Fenton has been appointed the South-east regional sales manager; and Mr R. O. Pethybridge South-west regional sales manager.

Max Factor Ltd: Mr Stephen Sunderland, 42, has been appointed to the board. Mr Sunderland joined the export division of Max Factor & Co Inc at Bournemouth in 1957 and became export manager in 1967. He was appointed director of marketing for Max Factor Ltd in 1970.

Prior to his 1970 appointment, he spent a year based at Max Factor & Co Inc, Hollywood. During this time, he made extensive tours and detailed studies of the North American and Japanese markets.

Deaths

Clewlow: Recently, Mr George Henry Clelow, MPS, Timberfields, Highstair Lane, Stretton, Derbyshire, aged 62. Mr Clelow qualified in 1936 and was in business in Clay Cross for many years.

Grice: On July 22, Mr Frederick Thomas Grice, MPS, Springfield, Priory Road, Davington, Faversham, Kent. Mr Grice qualified in 1938.

Holmes: On July 23, Mr Alexander John Holmes, MPS, JP, Medical Hall, Greenlaw, Berwicks. Mr Holmes qualified in 1944.

Meredith: On July 31, Mr Evan Charles Meredith, FPS, 18 Wentworth Hill, Wembley Park, Middlesex. Mr Meredith qualified in 1927. *Mr J. Anderson Stewart* writes: I learned with great regret of the death of my associate and friend Evan C. Meredith. He was a unique character, having followed an unusual range of occupations. These started down a mine in Wales, then, following an interest in first aid, he became a doctor's dispenser. This work led to his obtaining the Society of Apothecaries' assistants diploma and further study, at a time when examination fees had to be earned, eventually brought him to our Register. Manager, proprietor and medical representative with Allen & Hanburys Ltd rounded off his professional life. But it was in his voluntary work that I knew him. Over many years, he was the mainstay of the Wembley Branch of

Topical reflections

BY XRAYSER

Good relations

The relationship between physician and pharmacist has sometimes been strained over the years, sometimes more acutely so than at others. It has again surfaced as a result of the introduction of the Misuse of Drugs Act, in which the correct writing of a prescription has become obligatory.

A correspondent wrote recently that we should no longer accept the subordinate role of viewing a prescription as an order from above. He went on to say that we have the opportunity, under the new legislation, to act as guardians of the public—"as the supreme check".

A prescription must surely always be regarded as an order, whether from above or below—that seems to me to be immaterial. By its very nature it must be an instruction. Recipe—take thou—is still printed on the official prescription form and whether the doctor writes "mitte" in the old-fashioned manner or "send" (in case either of us is a little shaky in his Latin), the form of the prescription cannot be other than an order to the pharmacist from the physician.

The letter says it is our duty to ensure that the prescriber has done his job correctly, but that is not a new situation. We have always been guardians of the public and must continue to be. It goes on to say that we should let the medical profession realise that we are not going to put up with slip-shod prescription writing "which surely betokens a similar attitude to diagnosis".

I am not sure that that is sound reasoning, though my thoughts may occasionally have run in the same direction. I have been in pharmacy for many years and I must confess that the relationship between doctor and pharmacist is at a much more professional level than it was 40 years ago. I am never met today with the impatience or a courtesy which seemed inbred in the senior physician of those days and perhaps your correspondent will reflect on this—if every prescription was perfect in every respect, doctor and pharmacist would never meet or have communication. And I have met some extremely pleasant and well-informed physicians, even if their handwriting is execrable.

Packaging

Packaging is rapidly becoming a King Charles's head with me—or so my readers may think. I have referred on a number of occasions to the type of pack which defies all but the most strenuous efforts to effect an entry; to the marked increase in "bubble" packing with its inroads on available space; to the plastic 2-litre container which must be handled as though it were eggshell if the contents are not to be spilt over the dispensary.

A more recent example was even more surprising. A white opaque plastic bottle—I use the word "plastic" in ignorance of the chemical nature of the substance—has become discoloured by some action of the contents on the container itself. One wonders if the staining is merely mechanical or if, in fact, there is a chemical action between the substance of the container and the liquid it contains. And if so, whether the contents have changed mechanically or physically or in any other way.

One would have imagined that packaging and storage research would have disclosed the effect before the product was marketed. Many of the difficulties of today were unheard of when glass was the universal container.

the Pharmaceutical Society, having spent two periods as secretary and also as chairman. From 1947 onwards, he attended every British Pharmaceutical Conference. Locally, he served on the Wembley Borough Council and was made an alderman as well as representing that body as

a layman on the Middlesex Executive Council where we sat on opposite sides.

Penman: On July 30, Mr James William Penman, MPS, FBOA, 68 Kylemore Crescent, North Forgewood, Motherwell, Lanarks. Mr Penman qualified in 1938.

Trade News

Kodak apologise for delays

Kodak Ltd, Station Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, are apologising for delays in their colour film processing. In a letter to photographic retailers, they admit that door-to-door service for 8 and 16mm Kodachrome movie film is about 20 days and 14 days for other Kodachrome films. Kodacolor 110 films and reprint orders are not being accepted by Kodak, and those received recently are being returned to dealers for redirection to other photo-finishers.

Kodak recognise that the position may get worse but nevertheless hope to be "back to normal" soon. They blame the situation on "some labour troubles".

Christmas showrooms

The three final Christmas showrooms being held by the Jacqueline Sales division of Jackel & Co Ltd are The Country Club Inn, Craigavon, Northern Ireland—August 14-16; Gloucester Hotel, Aberdeen—August 14-16; and Tay Centre Hotel, Dundee—August 21-23.

Verona Powell Ltd, Verona House, 54 Selston Road, South Croydon, Surrey are currently holding a Christmas showing of their range at Verona House.

Influvac reformulated

Duphar Laboratories Ltd, Duphar House, Gaters Hill, West End, Southampton SO3 3JD, have reformulated Influvac to combat a new strain of influenza B virus which the makers predict is likely to be a significant cause of influenza in Britain this winter. The new injection contains A/Eng/41/72 400IU, B/HK/8/73 (new strain) 200 IU, and B/Berk 1/71 200 IU (0.5ml ampoule, £0.75 trade).

Pro-Sobee availability

Bristol Laboratories, Stonefield Way, Ruislip, Middlesex, wish to reassure pharmacists that, contrary to a recent Press report, Pro-Sobee, the soya containing baby food for infants allergic to milk protein, is readily available either direct from the company or from wholesalers.

Ultraproct script charges

Following consultation with the Department of Health and Social Security and the Central NHS (Chemist Contractors) Committee, Schering Chemicals Ltd, The Brow, Burgess Hill, Sussex, announce that, as a result of excluding disposable finger-stalls from the Ultraproct Combi-pack, two 20p charges are now payable by the patient in respect of the two remaining components of the pack. All stocks purchased from the manufacturers are now without finger-stalls.



Aspro Junior sales drive

All independent chemists in Great Britain will shortly be receiving a free display pack containing three packets of Aspro Junior; retail value is 28½p.

This is the opening shot of a new sales drive by Nicholas Products following the completion of an "in-depth study" of the junior analgesic market.

The company reports a sharp upswing in Aspro Junior distribution this year following an earlier sales campaign. Details from Aspro Nicholas Ltd, 225 Bath Road, Slough, Bucks.

Keflex reduction

The following price reductions by Eli Lilly & Co Ltd effective August 13 were received too late for inclusion in the Price Supplement: Keflex 250mg tabs/caps. 20, £2.30; 100, £11.03; 500, £54.23. Keflex 500mg tabs/caps. 20, £4.50; 100, £21.60; 500, £106.20. Keflex suspension 125mg/5ml, 100ml £1.17; 250mg/5ml, 100ml £2.30.

Price increases approved

Schering Chemicals Ltd, The Brow, Burgess Hill, Sussex, announce that, with the approval of the Department of Health and Social Security, they have increased the price of a number of their products as from August 3. Wholesalers, chemists and dispensing doctors are being informed of changes by direct mail. New price lists are available on request.

Standardisation of packs

Weddel Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Salisbury House, London Wall, London EC2M 5XD are now standardising the packaging of their pharmaceutical injections on the metric system. This is being done gradually and the next material to be effected is their insulin injection B.P. From the beginning of October all 10ml vials of Weddel insulins will be packed in cartons of 10.

Repackaged soaps

H. Bronnley & Co Ltd, 10 Conduit Street, London W1 have now produced the three most popular soaps in their Soaps Victoria collection—elderflower, cucumber and gentian—in individual floral-patterned boxes (£1.36) lidded with see-through acetate, see picture (right). Each lid carries the message concerning the soap within.

Aerosol market entry

Huntley, Bourne & Stevens Ltd, Headley Road East, Woodley, Reading, RG5 4SL, recently announced their intention to enter the aerosol market. Their decision was taken following research both in this country and the EEC. As the result of this investigation, Huntley, Bourne & Stevens will be producing aerosols with welded side seams.

The company anticipate being in limited production early in 1974 and in full scale high-speed production by the end of that year.

New pack and price for Allergilac

A new pack—a collar can—has just been introduced by Cow & Gate, Guildford, Surrey, for their specialised formula food, Allergilac. This replaces the old type tin with the level lid and brings the product into line with the other specialised formulae in the range.

The new pack, which is now being distributed, is said to contain a larger quantity of powder—397g (14 oz) instead of 340g (12 oz);—and the price has been adjusted pro rata. The suggested retail price is now 34p per tin.

Vivonex—borderline substance

The advisory committee on borderline substances has recommended that Vivonex, distributed by Eaton Laboratories, 125 High Holborn, London WC1V 6QX, should be classified as a drug only when prescribed in the treatment of short bowel syndrome, intractable malabsorption, pre-operative preparation of patients who are malnourished, and the treatment following total gastrectomy.

Discontinuation

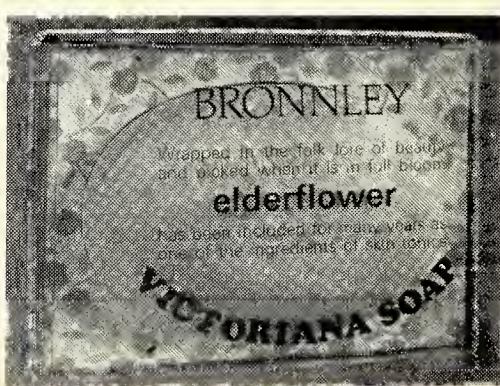
Brocades (GB) Ltd, Brocades House, Pyrford Road, West Byfleet, Weybridge, Surrey will discontinue their Brontina injection (detropine citrate) 12 × 2mg/2ml ampoules as from August 31. They say the demand for this product is practically nil and stocks are now exhausted. Brontina 1mg tablets, however, will continue to be available in packs of 100.

Benvil capsules

Beecham Ethical Distributors announce that returned Benvil capsules, which were withdrawn from the market two years ago, are now no longer eligible for credit. Further information from Mr I. F. Francis, Bencard, Great West Road, Brentford, Middlesex.

Bonus Offer

Lon (UK) Ltd, 58 Russell Square, London WC1. Youthair, 12 invoiced as 9 until mid-October.



New products and packs

Cosmetics and toiletries

Max Factor extend range

The Whipped Creme range of lipsticks has been increased to include two new frosted shades: Candy Frost, an amber-toned orange and Poppy Frost, a pink-toned red. These new shades, say Max Factor, are particularly suited to the Autumn fashion colours of browns, russets and misty heather.

Max Factor have also added three new shades to their Sheer Genius range of all-in-one makeup. The new shades are said to be complimentary to darker skins and are called Cafe Gold, a deep golden tan; Cafe Honey, a deep warm tan and Cafe Bronze, a deep dark bronze. These additions follow the introduction last year of three darker shades of Hi-Fi fluid makeup and Creme Puff (Max Factor Ltd, 16 Old Bond Street, London W1X 4BP).

Pagan perfume spray

Picot have introduced a perfume spray available only in the Pagan fragrance.

This new 10g handbag size perfume spray (£1.50) is presented in an elegant flame bottle, capped with gold and carries the Pagan label. It is incorporated in the new Pagan merchandiser which is a smoked Perspex counter unit with red and gold lettering on a black background, holding the complete range of Pagan products: perfume (in all sizes), aerosol perfume spray, spray mist aerosol, spin-flo and talc (£21.06 excl. VAT).

Available from September 1 (Picot Ltd, 50 Upper Brook Street, London W1).

More Air Spun

Coty have increased their Air Spun makeup range with Air Spun transparent gel face makeup (£0.60) a non-oily gel based formula which gives a hint of colour available in three shades; Air Spun gel eyeshadow (£0.48) said to be water soluble and quick drying available in six translucent shades; and Air Spun creme stick lipstick (£0.48) presented in four frosted shades. All these additions to the range will be available from October (Coty Ltd, Coty House, 3 Stratford Place, London W1N 9AE).

Color wash

Estee Lauder have introduced Color Wash (£2.50), a sheer liquid colour tint that can be used together with foundation and/or powder to produce a soft glow to the complexion. Color Wash is said to be "a new formulation combining pure colour with an enriched gel base", and shades available are bronze glow, apricot glow, warm glow and twilight glow. Available from September 1 (Estee Lauder Cosmetics Ltd, 71 Grosvenor Street, Mayfair, London W1).

Sundries

Travel accessories

A new range of travel accessories is Jackie by Jacqueline. Made in modern check design with orange/black and purple/black colourways, the patterns have been cleverly mixed, large check trimmed with small check for the holdalls, and small check for the purses.

The range includes a curler caddy with drawstring top (£1.05) and the matching shower/boudoir cap (99p), plus many new style holdalls and purses, including boxed purses and gift sets for the Christmas market. Retail prices from 49p to £3.25.

All items in the range have toning waterproof linings and are fully washable. The Jackie accessory range is available from mid-September.

Susannah is the name of a new and feminine range of cosmetic purses and travel accessories made in a nylon taffeta fabric. The latest styles include the Satchel Bag with long shoulder handle for cosmetics or toiletry items (£1.25), the Pumpkin holdall a useful dressing-table tidy or curler caddy (£1.45), and a twin purse gift set (£1.35) comprising a cosmetic purse and maxi zip purse. This last item is gift packed in light-weight acetate.

All the items in the Susannah range are waterproof lined and fully washable, while the colour section is pink, blue and yellow (Jacqueline sales division of Jackel & Co Ltd, Kitty Brewster Estate, Blyth, Northumberland).

Electrical

Twin-Head Philishave

The latest addition to the Philishave range features twin floating 90 super shaving heads, which can be released by push button for easy cleaning (brush supplied). The new Philishave (£7.50) is finished in charcoal grey with black coiled lead and plug. It is supplied in a travelling case. (Philips Electrical Ltd, Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2H BAS).

Household

House plant insect killer

A new slow release insecticide strip (£0.30), contained in a specially designed holder to protect houseplants from a wide range of pests is being introduced by the Secto Co. Called Secto Floragard the new houseplant insecticide is said to be simple, safe, clean, and an inexpensive way of ridding houseplants of green and black fly, white fly, red spider mite, mealy bug, scale insects and vine weevils.

Claimed to have an active life of up to six months, it is packed in a 12 unit outer display box bearing a picture of Fred



Loads, the BBC gardening expert.

A full 33½ per cent discount plus an introductory bonus offer on quantity orders is available. (Secto Co Ltd, Carlinghurst Road, Blackburn BB2 1PN).

Prescription specialities

ANQUIL tablets

Manufacturer Janssen Pharmaceutical Ltd, Saunderton, High Wycombe, Bucks
Description White, uncoated biconvex tablets marked 'Janssen' on one side and A above 0.25 on the other each containing 0.25mg benperidol

Indications Control of deviant and anti-social sexual behaviour ie exhibitionism, compulsive masturbation, paedophilia

Contraindications Patients with pyramidal or extra-pyramidal symptoms. First three months of pregnancy

Dosage Adults only: 0.25mg to 1.5mg daily in divided doses

Precautions May potentiate the action of other CNS depressants and care is required during concomitant administration of opiates, barbiturates and other neuroleptics. Where prolonged treatment is envisaged, regular blood counts and liver function tests are recommended

Side effects May induce extra-pyramidal reactions but these are readily controllable with anti-Parkinson drugs. Drowsiness has been reported in some patients and insomnia in others but these effects tend to regress after a few days treatment. Rarely hypotension and allergic skin reactions have been reported. In general side effects can be minimised by starting with a low dose increasing at intervals of a few days
Storage Shelf life two years. Protect from light

Pack 100 tablets (£2.75 trade)

Supply restrictions PI, S4B

Date of issue September 10.

Promotions

Gerber renews offer

Gerber Babyfoods are now selling into the trade an improved version of their successful place mats promotion which they say attracted over 100,000 redemptions when it was first mounted in 1971.

The wipe-clean plastic place mats which measure 11in × 15in are available in four designs—Panda, Koala Bear, Squirrel, and Kitten—and consumers are offered up to four mats (valued at 45p each) free of charge against proofs of purchases.

To extend the effectiveness of the promotion in stimulating consumer purchases, Gerber are offering two further mats featuring characters from the Magic Roundabout TV series (value 49p each) at two for the price of one. This bounce-back offer is intended to appeal to families with older children (5-10 years) for whom the animal designs might be unsuitable.

The promotion is being advertised at the point of sale by means of special shelf strips holding 50 application forms and a 40in × 20in headboard containing an actual Panda place mat is available for use on off-shelf displays (CPC UK Ltd, Claygate House, Esher, Surrey).



Remington Selectro showcard

The new Remington showcard for the Selectro range of shavers features a Selectro 3 against a silver backing, plus a magnified close-up of the Micro Slots which are the basis of these new shavers.

The struttet showcard is made of high-quality card designed, say Remington, to stand the tough wear and tear of in-store

display (Remington Electric Shaver Division, Sperry Rand Ltd, Apex Tower, New Malden, Surrey).

Polaroid's summer sale

Polaroid are suggesting that instant picture camera stockists close off their spring-summer promotions period in August with a "Summer Sale" of Polaroid cameras. In its August newsletter to stockists, Polaroid UK's general sales manager, Jim Slee, reported that more than 1,000 successful promotions had been run by stockists this year under the company's promotion-a-month campaign.

The Summer sale promotion for August offers stockists similar benefits to the promotions of previous months. The stockists using Polaroid advertisement layouts and posters to advertise £1 or £2 reductions on the normal selling prices of Super Swinger, Square Shooter 2 or Colorpack 80 cameras can expect a free Type 87 black and white film for each camera sold at a £1 reduction, or one Type 88 colour film for each sale at a £2 reduction. The company also provides fifteen Type 87 films as a contribution to the stockist's advertising costs with the local newspaper.

As in previous months, the promotion is open to the first 300 stockists registering their participation, and benefits are claimed against a tearsheet of the newspaper advertisement and the registration cards of cameras sold sent to their sales administration department (Polaroid UK Ltd, Rosanne House, Welwyn Garden City, Herts).

Tinaderm display outer

Glaxo Laboratories have produced a display outer for the Tinaderm range. The outer (H36901) holds six 50g tins of powder and is finished in an attractive shade of cool green with a red foot imprint and the slogan: "for hot itchy feet".

It can be obtained from the Sales Correspondence Department, Glaxo Laboratories, Greenford, Middlesex, UB6 0HE.

Kotex extra towels

Said to be one of their biggest ever promotions, Kimberly-Clark are offering consumers four extra Kotex towels free with each 24's pack of Kotex New Freedom and Kotex feminine towels during August. All packs are flashed with "Plus 4 extra towels" free for shelf impact (Kimberly Clark Ltd, Larkfield, nr Maidstone, Kent).

Libresse share of sanpro market

The leadership of Libresse disposable sanitary towels is emphasised by the latest independent survey, say Sancella, showing that the brand has achieved over 11 per cent by volume of all sanitary towel sales through chemists.

Sancella go on to say that the new survey, covering the months of May and June 1973, reinforces the position of Libresse as the leading disposable towel and the biggest selling brand after Dr White's. The research also throws into relief the swing from the traditional towel to new "taped products" which employ self-adhesive tape, thereby overcoming the need for belts or special briefs.

The brand share of towels requiring belts has fallen from 81·2 per cent in Sept-Oct 1971 to 67·9 per cent according to the

survey. In the same period the brand share of "taped" towels has risen from 1·8 per cent to 18·3 per cent. And, claims Sancella, over 60 per cent of this new market has been won by Libresse.

Bonne Bell football result

The Bonne Boys have beaten the John Harrington Group 6-2 in the first of Bonne Bell's challenges to play five-a-side football against chemists. Bonne Bell's next match will be against their own advertising agency, Notley, and will take place towards the end of August. The proceeds of the first match were sent to the Royal National Institute for the Blind, Bonne Bell's choice of charity.

In America Bonne Bell work very closely with the American Institute for the blind, as Bonne run a make-up and grooming teaching programme for blind girls using a specially prepared book in braille.

This book has already been shown to the R.N.I.B. in this country and Bonne Bell U.K. in conjunction with the R.N.I.B. will be running their first make-up programme for blind girls later this year (Bonne Bell Cosmetics Ltd, York House, Empire Way, Wembley, Middlesex).



on TV next week

Ln = London; M = Midland; Lc = Lancashire;
Y = Yorkshire; Sc = Scotland; WW = Wales
and West; So = South; NE = North-east;
A = Anglia; U = Ulster; We = Westward;
B = Border; G = Grampian; E = Eireann;
CI = Channel Islands.

Airstrip: All except E

All Fresh: All except E, CI

Anadin: All except E

Bisodol: Lc, A

Close Up: All areas

Crest toothpaste: Y

Great Lash mascara: Lc

Harmony shampoo: All areas

Hedex: Ln, M, Lc, Y, S, WW, So, A, We

Immac: All except M, G, E

Macleans indigestion remedy: Ln, M, Y, Sc, WW, So, NE, A, We

Optrex: All except U, G, E, CI

Radox: All except U, E

Signal: All areas

SR: All areas

Sure: All areas

Ultra Lash mascara: Ln, So

Zoflora: Lc, Y, NE, U

ENGLISH COUNTRY HARVEST

BY JEAN SORELLE



ENGLISH COUNTRY HARVEST

Suggested retail prices

mint bubble bath

45p

honeysuckle bath oil

45p

herbal bath salts

50p

singletablet bath disc - Oatmeal, mint,

18p

honey

ft box - 3 bath discs - Oatmeal, mint,

54p

honey

bap on rope - Oatmeal, mint, honey

45p

Generous discount terms for limited period on

complete parcel range. (Bonus trade value

£2.18)

For order form & trade prices complete this coupon
To Jean Sorelle Ltd
117/123 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6A

Enter address details here

E.C.H.

A new sunscreen

by J. B. Stanford, MPharm, MPS and J. K. Sugden, PhD, BPharm,
ARIC, School of Pharmacy, City of Leicester Polytechnic, Leicester

Sunlight consists of the invisible ultra violet (UV) (290nm-400nm), visible coloured rays (400nm-700nm) and infra red radiations (700nm-1400nm). Ultra violet radiations may be considered to consist of three well defined components. These include UV A (320nm-400nm) which cause pigmentation without erythema, and the UV B (280nm-320nm) which produce erythema. UV C which is below 280nm is of no real significance as these rays are absorbed by the ozone in the atmosphere before they reach earth.

The human organism reacts to the UV radiations in many ways. It has been demonstrated in experimental studies that only two thirds of the population show the familiar reaction of reddening of the skin followed by skin tanning after exposure to solar radiations. In the same context 13 per cent react with severe sun burns without ever getting really sun tanned, while 20 per cent develop pigmentation as their only response. Three groups have been designated, which are type E/P (erythema with pigment), type E (erythema) and type P (pigment).¹ While sunburn is caused by an acute overdose of UV B the dose is relative since effects vary from individual to individual. At the same time adverse effects can also be caused by the UV A.

Epidermal injury

The first reaction on injury of the epidermis following exposure to sunlight is in the stratum spinosum (spinous layer); the site of action being in the nuclei of the cells. The assault is caused by dimerisation of the thymine content of the deoxyribonucleic acids. All further reactions which become visible in the skin as sunburn develop from this primary process². During the disintegration of the nuclei and of the spinous cells, products are formed which include histamine, leading to vasomotor dilatation of the capillary vessels of the cutis. If the damage is sufficiently extensive, oedema formation, accumulation of lymph in the upper skin and blister formation follow. The latency period up to the manifestation of the secondary reactions is 2-6 hours on average and serves to explain why most people discontinue sunbathing too late.

An erythral effect curve indicates the wavelengths which are most effective in producing erythema. This curve shows a distinct maximum at 297nm. If the erythema effect curve is multiplied by the curve for the spectral energy distribution of the incident solar radiation, one obtains the wavelength of 307nm as the wavelength of maximum solar effectiveness with regard to erythema provocation. This value applies to sea level and would shift towards the short wave range with increasing altitude since the spectral energy curve changes. Because of misinterpretation of this point

many manufacturers develop sunscreen preparations which have their absorption maxima at 297nm instead of 307nm³.

Acute pathological light reactions

Many pathological conditions caused by the influence of UV B can be prevented or reduced by the correct use of sunscreen preparations⁴. Several pathological skin conditions develop under the influence of the UV A and sometimes visible light is involved.

Drugs can potentiate an otherwise harmless degree of radiation to produce an exaggerated sunburn reaction. Photosensitivity reactions of this type can be divided into two basic types⁵⁻⁹.

The phototoxic reaction is an exaggerated sunburn response with no immunological basis. It is usually localised and is normally attributed to the action of a specific drug or more usually its metabolites. Withdrawal of the offending drug, where possible, usually removes the reaction within a few days. Many of the phenothiazines, tetracyclines, sulphonamides, thiazides and sulphonyl ureas produce phototoxic effects. There is no correlation between the provoking wavelength and the absorption spectrum of the drug. Initiating wavelengths are often in the UV A (chlorpromazine 330nm-360nm, sulphonamides 360nm). We have found that the phototoxic effects produced by nalidixic acid which appear as erythema followed by bullous reactions arise in the UV B¹⁰⁻¹⁴.

Drug allergic reactions are very complex in their mechanism. They are characteristically displayed by persons with inherently low light tolerance. Once hypersensitivity has been established each subsequent exposure to sunlight produces an inflammatory skin response. The malady persists for a considerable period of time even following the removal of the offending drug. The allergy might flare up at sites far removed from the original rash. Sensitisation by related drugs is common. In photoallergic light reactions a true allergen must be formed from the drug or its metabolites by combination with a protein or nucleic acid. It has, however, not been possible to demonstrate transferrable antibodies in the serum of photosensitised persons.

Porphyria sufferers have been shown to be sensitive to the UV A and to wavelengths around 400nm and above. Photosensitisa-

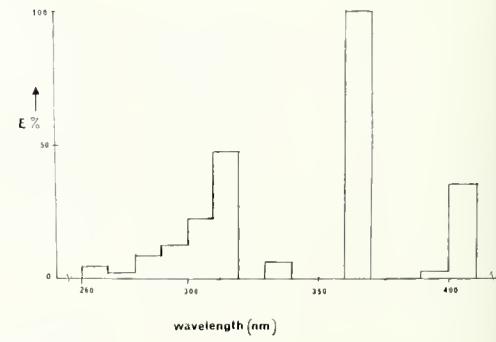


Figure 1

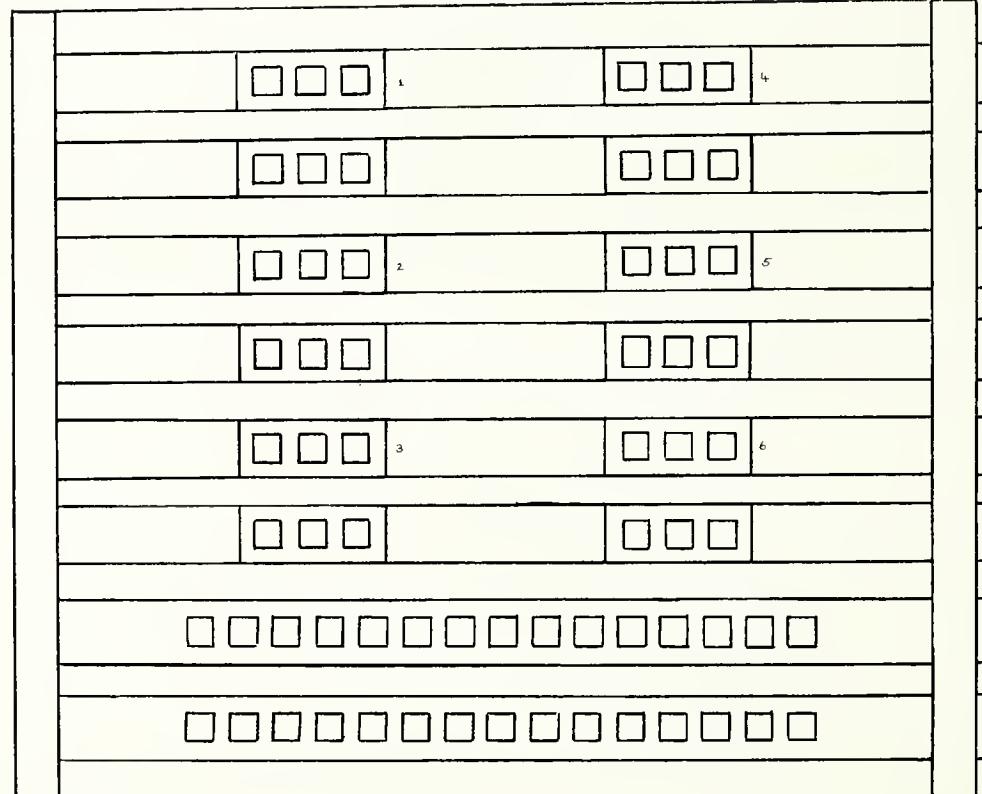


Figure 2

tion produces a burning sensation, which is accompanied by itching and severe swelling following a short exposure to sunlight. Haemoporphyrin has been found to be one of the substances which cause sensitisation. In porphyria the sensitivity greatly increases when patients are inadvertently treated with sulphonamides or griseofulvin. The courses of both discoid and disseminated lupus erythematosus are adversely affected by sunlight. Premalignant lesions of both squamous and basal cell carcinomas occur in areas of exposed skin in white skinned races. The greater incidence of solar keratoses and skin cancer in southern latitudes supports the theory that sunlight is a causative factor. Xeroderma pigmentosum, a rare dystrophic dermatosis of familial origin, is an acknowledged precursor of skin cancer which displays a marked sensitivity to sunlight. Our examination of the sunlight sensitivity of one patient has indicated that the sensitivity was in the UV B. Patients suffering from pellagra display a marked sensitivity to sunlight with primary involvement of the backs of the hand. *Dermite de près* is a sensitivity induced by certain grasses, whilst eosin induced sensitivity to sunlight occurs following the application of lipsticks. Other conditions precipitated or aggravated by sunlight include herpes labialis (simplex), rosacea, erythema multiforme and seborrhoeic dermatitis^{15, 16}.

Experimental

Figure 1 indicates the percentage relative spectral energy distribution of the Phillips combined health lamp (HP 3108) between 260nm-410nm as supplied by the manufacturers. The lamp was reconstructed to eliminate the infra red source. It was noted that there was little radiation produced within the UV A except between 360nm and 370nm. The average UV radiation at 30 inches from the source compared to a clear midday midsummer sunlight has been shown to be 2.2 times greater UV B and 8.5 times less UV A¹⁷. The lamp did produce a very small amount of UV C, which was found to be in the ratio of 1:0.075 UV A/UV C and 1:0.068 UV B/UV C.

Construction of the screen

A screen was constructed whereby six 2 inch x 2 inch filters could be inserted at any one time. Light was allowed to pass through each filter via six 1cm² patches. At the bottom of the screen two horizontal rows were created each consisting of 15 x 1cm² patches. Patches were 0.5cm apart and the horizontal rows were 2cm apart. Slots were set into the screen which allowed horizontal opaque strips A-H to be inserted to cover each patch at any predetermined time (Figure 2).

Evaluation of minimum perceptible erythema time

The main difficulty was the availability of the individual patients. In all cases, with the exception of patient 1, the lamp was placed 15-30 inches from the patient's back. With the patient in the sitting position the screen was supported to just touch the back. On irradiation, horizontal opaque strips were moved over each patch at any scheduled time.

Between exposures and evaluation of each test approximately 24 hours was allowed to elapse except in patient 1 when the reaction was rapid and could be viewed

throughout its developments. This was not always satisfactory as fading of patches sometimes occurred but it proved impossible to see patients before 24 hours had elapsed.

The minimal perceptible erythema time was determined as the faintest patch correlated with time when the observations were taken. With the exception of patient 3 little variation in response within any individual was found to occur. The filters were used in a similar way excepting that depending on individual sensitivity, the lamp was advanced 15 inches to supply four times the energy output due to the high molecular extinctions of the filters and their combinations.

Table 1 contains the filter characteristics. Evaluation of Table 2 indicated that patients 1, 2 and 3 were not only highly sensitive to the UV B but also sensitive in the UV A. The long erythema times produced in the UV A were in part due to the high molecular extinctions of the filters but it should be remembered that the lamp as indicated earlier produces considerably less UV A than normal sunlight and that this

was only between 360nm and 370nm. Patients 4, 5 and 6 displayed sensitivity in the UV B, while no patient indicated sensitivity in the short visible.

Patients 4, 5, and 6 failed to react following exposure through perspex, glass, perspex/glass and Wood's glass after irradiation

Continued on p187

Table 1: Filter characteristics

Filter	Percentage transmittance			
	1	10	50	100
Wood's glass	400-310.5	394-319.5	384.5-335.5	369
Window glass	314.5	322.5	337.5	369
Glass/ Perspex	334.5	347.5	362	400
Perspex	294.5	345	361	400
Wratten 2 B	389.5	397	400.5	666.7

Figures represent wavelengths (nm) above which light is transmitted or in the case of Woods filter the range within which light passes.

Table 2: Minimum perceptible erythema range following examination 25-27 hours after exposure to the Phillips health lamp (HP 3108)

Patient number	Lamp distance (in)	Filter			
		None	Wood's glass	Glass	Perspex
1	40	Less than 1 sec	10-20 sec	40-80 sec	20-40 sec
2	30 15	5-10 sec	2-4 mins	— 15-20 mins	— 3-5 mins
3	30 15	5-10 sec 15-30 sec 10-15 sec	6-8 mins	— 12-16 mins	— 3-5 mins
4	30	75-90 sec	—	—	—
5	30	75-90 sec	—	—	—
6	30	75-90 sec	—	—	—

Table 3: Selective use of sunscreen preparations with the lamp placed 30 inches from the subject with examination 25-27 hours after exposure to irradiation

Patient	Screen	Response (control)	Response (sunscreen)
1	A	1 sec	10-12 sec
1	B		No significant improvement but response delayed
1	C		No significant improvement
1	D		No significant improvement but response delayed
2	A	5-10 sec	45-50 sec
3	A	15-30 sec	120-150 sec
3	B		30 sec
4	A	75-90 sec	150-180 sec
4	B		150-180 sec
6	A	60-90 sec	120-150 sec
6	B		150-180 sec

Formulations:

Cream A — MBP 5.0%, Uvistat 2211 6.0%, titanium dioxide 15% burnt sugar solution qs, Uvistat cream to 100%.

Cream B — Uvistat 2211 6%, Uvistat cream to 100%.

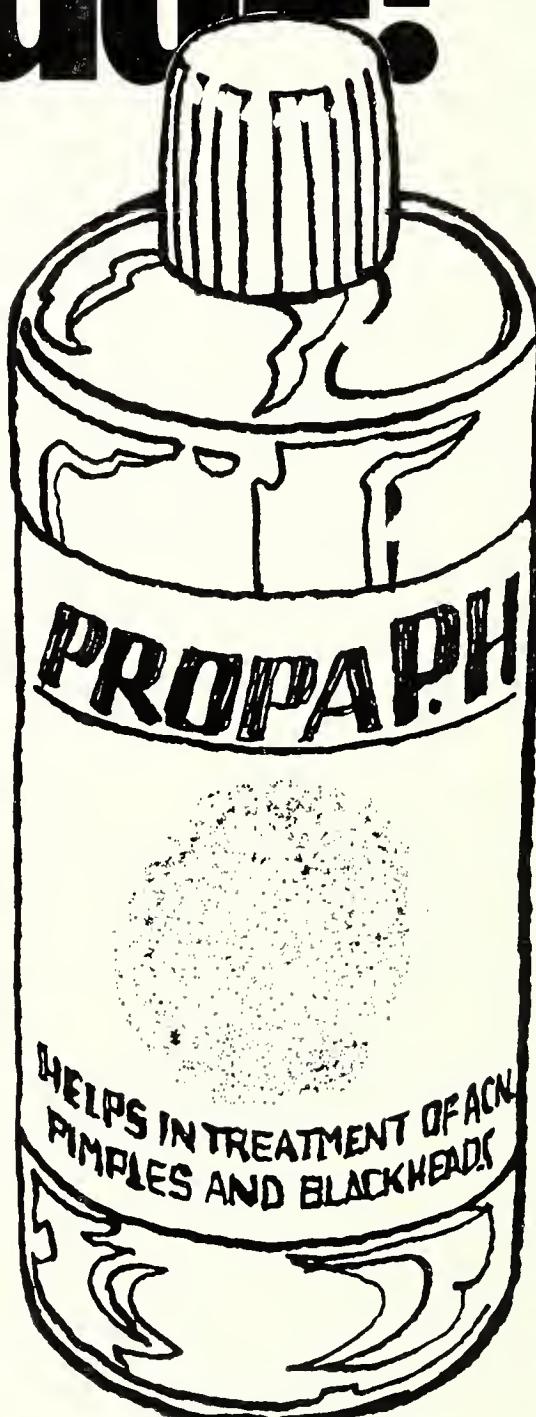
Cream C — Titanium dioxide 15%, sunscreen cream base to 100%.

Cream D — MPB 5.0%, sunscreen cream base to 100%.

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Comment

Animal medicines

There is little constructive that can be said about the Medicines Commission's recommendations for the animal medicines general sale list—except that, like its human medicines counterpart, it opts for the status quo.

There is a grain of hope in the admission that some products (un-named) submitted to the Commission contained substances in higher concentrations than could be accepted as "being reasonably safe for general sale to the public", but the value of this, in terms of pharmaceutical control, must await the separate report on products which might be sold to farmers, etc, "by retailers with relevant experience". It is this report that will determine whether the rural pharmacist is left with much ground between the veterinary prescription and the corn chandler.

The only certain recommendations of general restrictions to pharmacies or prescription are in the areas of anthelmintics, parenteral injections, eye drops and roundworm internal treatments.

The rural pharmacist is, of course, under pressure from many sides—his village store, the dispensing doctor, the veterinary surgeon, the farmers' co-operative, etc. But he has much to offer his community professionally and it is to be hoped that the representations made by interested organisations will enable the Ministers to frame legislation which makes better use of this expertise.

Nationalisation motives

Mr John Silkin, the Labour Party's spokesman on health, raised the spectre of nationalisation again in a speech last week (p169).

The politics of such a move are for the individual conscience, but the motives set out by Mr Silkin surely do not bear close examination. The bulk of drug research is paid for by the taxpayer through the Medical Research Council and the universities, he claims. Yet in 1970 the industry itself spent £22 millions on research and development out of a total of £80m spent on all medical research in that year (£50m from Government sources).

Inevitably the industry benefits from the basic research carried out under Government sponsorship, but the same situation exists in all other industries—where there is often a direct government subsidy as well as "free know-how".

Letters

Unbalanced programmes

I would like to lend my support to the views expressed by Outsider (July 28, p106) about the failure of the BBC to include a pharmacist, or reference to the profession in the Talk-In programme on the 25th anniversary of N.H.S.

Sometime ago I listened to the first of

three programmes on Radio 4 entitled "Shake Well Before Taking" thinking surely pharmacy would be adequately represented in a series dealing with problems like overprescribing, giving the patient adequate information, etc—but to my amazement, although doctors, drug manufacturers, pharmacologists were interviewed, the general practice pharmacist was not even mentioned.

After telephoned and written communications with the producer, whom I asked if he had considered reporting the views of

The NEDO report, Focus on Pharmaceuticals, showed that the pharmaceutical industry's R&D expenditure, expressed as a percentage of gross output, is over three times that of manufacturing industry as a whole. The expenditure is also growing faster than the pharmaceutical market—the estimated 1972 total being £28m.

In 1965, the figure was only £11·6m, and even at that level of research the Sainsbury Committee was forced to the conclusion that the industry is "far from being wholly or even largely dependent on the universities for basic research". It added: "Pharmacological research directed towards the discovery of new and more effective synthetic drugs is . . . outside the scope of universities and research institutes".

Mr Silkin is on firmer ground when he acknowledges the inadequacy of pharmaceutical services in some areas. But his proposal to ensure that "publicly-operated supplies of medicine are available everywhere" is premature.

Surely the first step should be to assess the effect of preventing the "inadequacies" occurring—by promoting legislation to safeguard pharmacies from "leap-frogging", by aid for their siting in uneconomic situations (such as housing estates, see p169), and by providing realistic remuneration for professional services. It might be cheaper in the long-run—and it would certainly be better for the public.

But at least it is comforting to hear a politician acknowledge the need for an adequate pharmaceutical service.

Fire risks

The Isle of Man and recent hotel fire tragedies should cause every one of us to look at our environment in terms of fire risk.

Fortunately, chemists have an excellent reputation among fire insurance companies and assessors. It has been developed over the years by the constant application of the detailed knowledge of their stocks and the awareness of the risks.

The recent news items emphasise the need to avoid complacency and pharmacists should ensure there are regular checks of fire prevention devices, heating apparatus and all possible sources of combustion. The apt description good housekeeping and all it entails should be constantly applied.

general practice pharmacy and decided against, or had it just not occurred to him? I eventually got a letter stating he realised the part played by the pharmaceutical "industry"—at which point I gave up.

I fear that the Society is either not making representations in the right place or manner, or is too easily put off by the failure of their efforts. After all it is the constant dripping which wears away the stone.

C. A. Benjamin
Leeds 9

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Professional News

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain

'Special Register' application withdrawn-not all conditions met

The Pharmaceutical Society has withdrawn its application for entry upon the Special Register kept under the Industrial Relations Act, reported the secretary and registrar, Mr D. F. Lewis, at the August Council meeting. The decision to withdraw was taken by the Council in June.

In August last year, the chief register of trade unions and employers' associations, at his own request, met the secretary and registrar of the Society to discuss the Society's application for registration. It appeared that the chief registrar was satisfied that the Society complied with all requirements as set out in Section 84 of the Act for eligibility for entry in the Special Register, with the exception of Section 84(3)(b) which stated: "its activities include the regulation of relations between workers . . . and employers or organisations of employers". The chief registrar asked that the Society's files and records be searched to find instances supporting the contention that the Society was engaged in the regulation of relations between workers and employers.

The evidence required by the chief registrar was difficult to find, so a letter was sent stating that the Society's purpose in seeking registration was to safeguard its position as a professional body in making representations on behalf of the membership as a whole, and not to deal with industrial cases of members in dispute with an employer or a trade union. At a further meeting it was explained that the chief registrar was not satisfied that the Society complied with the requirements for registration as set out in Section 84, and that the application for registration would have to be rejected. To preserve the Society's future position, the Council decided to write formally withdrawing the application.

Veterinary general sales list

The secretary and registrar reported that a letter had been received from the Ministry of Agriculture enclosing a copy of the proposed general sale list for animal medicines (see p185). The letter, dated July 25, had asked for the Society's comments by September 14. It was agreed that Mr Lewis should write protesting about the short period of time allowed and reserving the right to send in comments after that date. A separate report was to be published, setting out recommendations for products which could continue to be sold by "retailers of relevant experience". It was felt that appropriate comment could not be made until that further report had been received.

A pharmacy company had been in the habit of engaging preregistration graduates before the pharmacy concerned had been approved, it was stated during discussion on the Education Committee report. The superintendent pharmacist concerned had now agreed that applications for approval

of establishments would be made well in advance of preregistration experience commencement.

The Education Committee also considered the cases of two graduates who had commenced their preregistration experience in pharmacies which had not been approved. Council's concern is to be expressed to the graduates that the Society had not been informed before the periods of preregistration experience had been commenced, and the superintendent pharmacist concerned will be informed that if his company continued to engage graduates in pharmacies that had not been approved the Council would reconsider its attitude towards permitting the company to employ them. The other superintendent pharmacist had already agreed to discontinue the practice. The period of experience of both graduates was, however, approved.

Joint post-graduate experience

The recent discussion with regional pharmacists in England on the question of joint hospital-pharmaceutical industry arrangements for preregistration experience was reported on. The regional pharmacists present at that meeting had indicated that they were prepared to do what they could to encourage an increase in the number of such arrangements, but they had emphasised that each scheme should be negotiated between the hospital and the industrial company concerned so that experience received in each was complementary. Wherever possible, arrangements should also be made that graduates could participate in courses or seminars organised within the hospital region during the industrial part of their period of experience. It was pointed out that a problem existed when a region could not provide supernumerary places for such graduates.

The Education Committee noted that it would be most helpful to such schemes if all regions were able to have preregistration graduates classified as supernumerary. They endorsed the desirability of graduates attending hospital courses or seminars. If the industrial experience was being undertaken outside the hospital region it was hoped that arrangements could be made for the graduates to attend courses in the region where the company was situated. The matter was referred to the Industrial Practice Subcommittee, which would also consider joint general practice/pharmaceutical industry arrangements.

The boundaries of the Society's regions in England and Wales are to be considered in relation to the boundaries of the new NHS Regions, and the proposals presented at the Committee's October meeting. Regions would be asked for their comments on any amendments proposed by the Council. Then, after the regional boundaries had been decided, the regions them-

selves would be asked to consider boundaries of their constituent branches in relation to the NHS areas.

The Scottish Department Executive had agreed that the boundaries of the Scottish branches should be revised in relation to the Scottish NHS areas.

The Science Committee had considered the question of amendments that should be made to the proposed prescription only medicines list to allow for the emergency supply of certain medicines by pharmacists, and for a reasonable selection of preparations to be available for counter prescribing by pharmacists when it was considered justifiable to do so. The Council agreed that amendments proposed by the Science Committee, and its comments, should be incorporated in the Society's detailed comments on the list to be made to the Department of Health.

Digoxin tablets

The Committee noted that the Department of Health was reviewing the product licences which had been issued for digoxin tablets. They again expressed concern at the unsatisfactory situation which existed when pharmacists dispensed digoxin tablets. However, they felt that it was important that the Committee on Safety of Medicines should make suitable plans for informing pharmacists and doctors of the exact position when better standardisation of digoxin tablets had been achieved.

A suggestion that the director of the Society's Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Mr S. C. Jolly, should discuss with the Committee on Safety of Medicines its plans for when digoxin tablets with better bioavailability became generally available, was accepted.

It was reported that discussions had been held with PIRA (the research association for the paper printing and packaging industries) with a view to enlisting its aid in designing and achieving the marketing of an improved outer container for the dispensing strip and blister packs.

A draft constitution and suggestions for an election procedure for the proposed membership group for hospital pharmacists were discussed by the Practice Committee. It was agreed that the draft constitution should be sent to the Guild of Hospital Pharmacists together with a letter giving the Council's views on the election procedure that should be adopted for the proposed group's committee.

The Practice Committee considered the "retainer" scheme for women doctors which was financed by the Department of Health and Social Security. They considered it advantageous if a similar scheme could be instituted for women pharmacists and the Council agreed that an approach should be made to the Department of Health to arrange a meeting at which the matter could be discussed.

Mr A. Howells was congratulated on being made a fellow of the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria, and Professor Beckett on having been awarded the American Pharmaceutical Association's Research Achievement Award in Pharmaceutics.

The 1973 Humphreys Jones scholarship has been awarded to Mr Brendan Fowlston, BSc, a postgraduate student at the School of Pharmacy, Liverpool Polytechnic. Mr Fowlston will use the scholarship towards the study of certain aspects of ayurvedic medicine in India during the summer.

CATERING FOR A SPECIALISED MARKET

Most retail pharmacists will be familiar with Dr Wernet's denture fixative, Sensodyne toothpaste and Dentu-creme but fewer will probably know Stafford-Miller Ltd, the manufacturer of those products, or their American-based parent.

Stafford-Miller began trading from a small office in London in 1938 and was the first overseas subsidiary to be established by the Block Drug Co whose headquarters are in New Jersey, USA. Dr Wernet's powder was the first product they introduced to the English market and this was soon to be followed by others, most of which were in the dental field. During the early years of the company, the products were distributed by Fassett & Johnson and this arrangement continued for a number of years.

Post-war developments

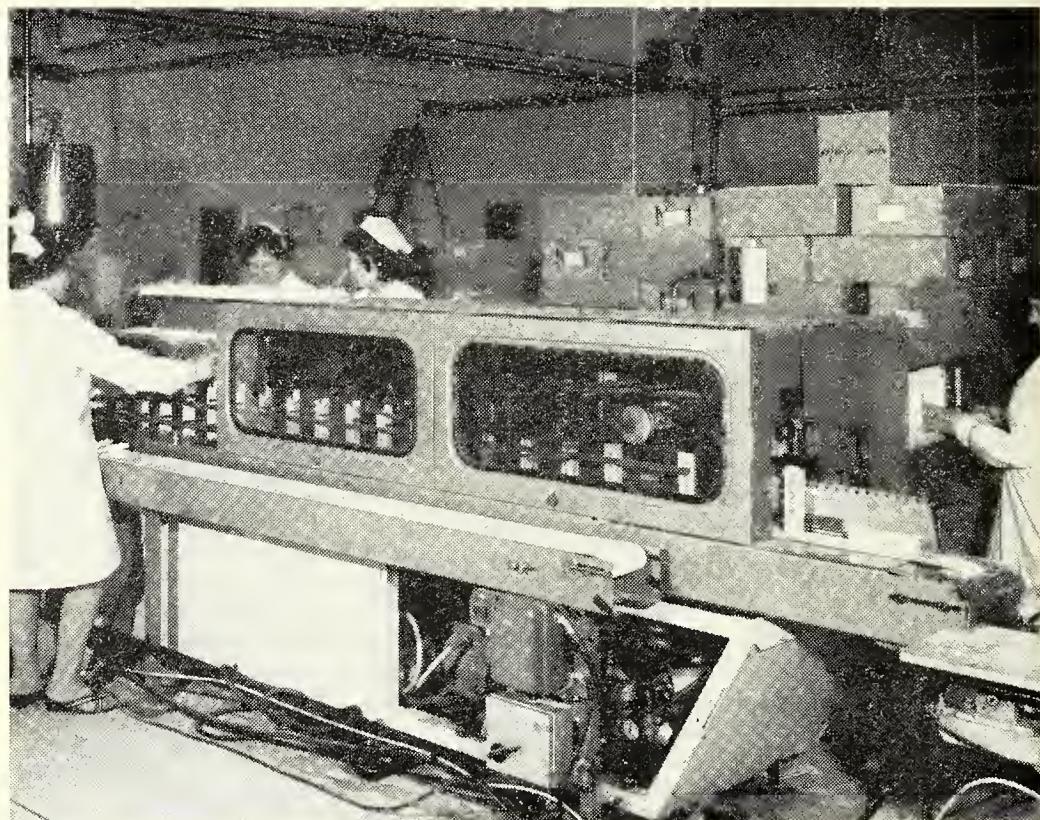
At the end of the 1939-45 war, the first Stafford-Miller factory was opened at Welwyn Garden City, but with the introduction of further new products and expanding business, the plant quickly proved to be inadequate. A new purpose-designed factory was erected in 1955, at what was then the new trading estate at Birchwood in Hatfield.

New major product launches continued to take place and eventually the first special paste cleanser for dentures in the UK was introduced. Poli-Grip denture fixative cream was introduced to the market and for many years has enjoyed brand leader status in its category, the company claim. Sensodyne toothpaste, specially designed to meet the needs of people suffering from dentinal hypersensitivity, they say, was an immediate success.

The company has also enjoyed success with its "ethical" pharmaceutical products, and with a travel sickness tablet in dosage form for children.

The company's expertise in certain skin conditions led them into the shampoo field where they now have established a leading medicated shampoo (Tegrin).

Despite several additions to the Hatfield building, with a continued programme of expansion, the facility proved to be completely inadequate in production terms and the new 8-acre site at Plymouth was established with 58,000 sq ft of factory and laboratories built there (see C&D, May 5, p564). Marketing, sales and administration remain at Hatfield, as again this part of the company continued to increase its activity in relation to the overall expansion programme. During the last 10-year period, the company established a national sales force, which now covers the majority of independent retail outlets on a regular cycle basis. A small force of representatives for the company's "ethical" products call on doctors and hospitals in the London area only for the time being. In addition



Packaging Sensodyne toothpaste at the Plymouth factory.

to these a number of representatives visit dental surgeons and clinics and public health departments.

Whilst remaining a subsidiary of Block Drug Co, Stafford-Miller operates on a semi-autonomous basis with a board of three British directors—V. F. Kelly, V. Thomas Kelly and A. J. Devaney.

From the original Hatfield operation, Stafford-Miller's activity in Europe has developed at a fast pace and a modern factory has been operational for a number of years in Oevel near Antwerp. Production there covers the needs of the EEC area for Stafford-Miller products and companies have now been established in France, Germany and Italy. All of these come under the central control of the Belgian headquarters.

Other Stafford-Miller companies are to be found in Australia, Japan, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Canada, and, of course, the parent company in the US. Throughout the rest of the world, Block Drug products are marketed under the direction of their international export division, through appointed distributors working in concert with local advertising agencies.

Like many other pharmaceutical houses in Britain and US, Block Drug Co was started by a pharmacist. Just over 70 years ago Alexander Block moved on after a short time in his own retail business, to form a manufacturing company which, by present day standards, is probably the largest family-controlled pharmaceutical company in the US.

Company profile

STAFFORD-MILLER LTD

According to Stafford-Miller's sales director, Mr V. T. Kelly, the group's marketing philosophy of catering for specific markets is expected to continue both in the US and in Britain. With the experience of 70 years behind them and the success attained that would seem a logical course to pursue.

The family are still very much in control of the business, headed by Leonard Block, son of the founder and present chairman of the board. The president of the company, James Block, is a grandson of the founder, as is the international president, Tom Block. The company are one of the major television advertisers in the US—on the last full analysis of major advertisers in television, they were among the top 100 with air-time expenditure of \$23m (£10m).

In the US as in other world markets, the company has concentrated on the field of dental products. In fact 64 per cent of the corporate turnover is in that product category and the rest in over-the-counter proprietaries.

"Ethical" pharmaceuticals are marketed through their subsidiary organisation, Reed & Carnick. More than 200 representatives are engaged in the marketing of the company's products calling on chemists, doctors and dentists. Quite recently, Block Drug has intensified the screening and development of new products and currently 70 full-time scientists are engaged solely in research and development at the company headquarters.

Some restriction on general sale animal medicines?

Some animal medicines at present on general sale would become restricted to pharmacies unless they are reformulated under the Medicines Commission's "Report on a general sale list of medicinal products for the treatment of animals" (HM Stationery Office, price £0·10½).

The broad effect of the recommendations is to allow general sale of pet and animal medicines to continue as at present, but the Commission has still to report on products "which, although unsuitable for general sale could nevertheless, for a limited period, continue to be sold by retailers with relevant experience to farmers and others having charge of animals for business purposes, as well as by pharmacists".

The Commission recommends that all veterinary products for general sale should be labelled "For animal treatment only" and considers that it is desirable, in those cases where it is not already apparent from the name of the product, for veterinary medicines to indicate in their title the fact that they are intended for animals. It also recommends that the particulars on the containers of products containing vitamin A promoted for use in cats should include a warning of the risks arising from the excessive intake of that vitamin in the case of cats being fed mainly on a fish or liver diet.

For reasons of safety no products of the following classes should be included in the first list, the Commission recommends:

- products promoted for use as anthelmintics;
- products recommended for administration by parenteral injection;
- products marketed for use as eye drops;
- products marketed for the internal treatment of ringworm.

As with medicinal products for human use, the Commission considers it undesirable that veterinary products closely resembling sweets should be included in the list. Pack and content restrictions on aspirin and paracetamol, similar to those for human medicines, are recommended.

The Commission recommends that the products in the lists set out below may be with or without:

- any excipient, vehicle, base, colour flavour, perfume, propellant, stabiliser, emulsifier or preservative commonly used as an inactive ingredient in the preparation of medicines; or
- any of the following parts of animals (including extracts from such parts) commonly used as human or animal foodstuffs or in the preparation of such foodstuffs, including milk products, fish meal, bone, offal, liver, muscle or fat; or
- any substance of vegetable origin commonly used as human or animal foodstuffs or in the preparation of such foodstuffs; and extracts and residues of any such substance; or

grit in medicinal products for birds.

The report says that a number of the products submitted contained particular substances in concentrations higher than those which the Commission could accept as being reasonably safe for general sale to the public. "The Commission's proposals effectively exclude these products from the General Sale List by placing a limitation on the substances in question either in the form of a proposed maximum strength, or a maximum recommended daily dose or a maximum amount per tablet."

No veterinary products were submitted for inclusion in the automatic machines section of the general sale list.

Before making an Order based on the report, Ministers would welcome the views of interested organisations and firms. These should be addressed to The Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Government Buildings, Room 6A, Garrison Lane, Chessington, Surrey, and should arrive not later than September 14.

Internal and external list

Substances recommended for inclusion in the first general sale list of medicines for the treatment of animals when in products marketed for internal or external use (or both):

"External" means local application to the skin, hoof, mouth, throat, nose, ear, eye, vagina or rectum.

Proposed maximum strength or dose in parenthesis where applicable.

Absinthium: acetic acid (7·5 per cent internal, 15 per cent external); acetomenaphthone; alcohol BP; aloes; aloin; althaea; aluminium hydroxide; aluminium sulphate; amber oil; ammonia solution, conc (1·66 per cent internal); ammonium acetate fort., bicarbonate, carbonate, chloride, citrate, oleate, phosphate, sulphate, valerate; amyl alcohol; aniseed; aniseed oil; arnica; asafetida; ascorbic acid; aspirin (maximum amount per tablet = 325mg; maximum number of tablets or sachets per pack 25); attapulgite.

Barberry bark; bay salt; bearberry leaf; benzoin; biotin; bismuth and ammonium citrate; bismuth carbonate; bismuth salicylate (20 per cent internal, 20 per cent external); bismuth subnitrate (20 per cent internal, 20 per cent external, except in preparations for application to the udder); bladderwrack; bole armenian; bornyl acetate; brilliant green; buchu; buckthorn; burdock root; burgundy pitch.

Caffeine citrate: calcined magnesite; calcium borogluconate, carbonate, caseinate, chloride (0·012 per cent internal, 0·012 per cent external); gluconate; glycerophosphate, hydroxide, hypophosphite, lactophosphate, oxide, pantothenate, phosphate monoacid, phosphate tribasic; calumba; caraway oil; caraway seed; cassia, castor oil; catechu; catnip; celery seed;

cellulose; chamomile; chamomile oil; charcoal; chlorobutol; (0·5 per cent internal, 2·5 per cent external); Chloroform (1 per cent internal); chlorophenol; chlorophyll; chlorophyllin; choline; choline chloride; cinchona (0·4 per cent internal); citric acid; clove oil.

Cobalt, cobalt carbonate, chloride, lactate, sulphate (all equivalent to 1 per cent elemental cobalt); copper, copper carbonate, oxide, phosphate, sulphate (all for medicinal products except feed additives, Sheep: Equivalent to 0·2 per cent of elemental copper. Other species: Equivalent to 1 per cent of elemental copper. The concentrates of copper salts used in the preparation of animal feed supplements, concentrates, or premixes shall result in not more than the following concentrations of elemental copper in the final feed: Pigs—0·02 per cent, other species—0·005 per cent); coriander; cottonseed fatty acids; couch-grass; creosote (50 per cent external, 50 per cent internal); cresol (1·0 per cent external, 2·5 per cent internal); cummin seed; cyanocobalamin.

Dandelion juice; derris root; diastatic malt; dimethicone; disodium edetate (1 per cent internal, 1 per cent external); disodium hydrogen phosphate; dock root, yellow.

Edetic acid; elderberries; elder flowers; ethanolamine; ether (5 per cent internal); ethyl acetate; ethyl benzoate; ethylhydroxyethylcellulose; ethyl nitrite; ethyl oleate; eucalyptol BPC; eucalyptus; eucalyptus oil.

Ferric chloride (equivalent to 2 per cent elemental iron); ferric glycerophosphate; ferric hypophosphite (equivalent to 2 per cent elemental iron); ferric oxide; ferric perchloride (equivalent to 2 per cent elemental iron); ferric phosphate; ferric sulphate (equivalent to 2 per cent elemental iron); ferrous fumarate; ferrous gluconate; ferrous phosphate; ferrous sulphate (equivalent to 2 per cent elemental iron); formaldehyde solution (5 per cent internal).

Garlic juice; garlic oil; gentian; ginger oleorsin; ginger root; ginger; gluconolactone; glucose monohydrate; glyceryl monostearate; guaiacol.

Hexamine; holy thistle; horehound; hydrochloric acid, dilute BP; hydroxymethyl cellulose; hypromellose.

Inositol; iodine; ipecacuanha; irish moss; iron-reduced; iron ammonium citrate; iron ammonium sulphate; iron carbonate; iron chloride; iron hypophosphate; iron hypophosphite; iron and manganese citrate (equivalent to 2 per cent elemental iron).

Juniper oil; kaolin; kava.

Lactalbumin; lactoglobulin; laurel berries; lavender; lavender oil; lemongrass oil; lemongrass oil terpenes; limestone granules; linseed oil; liquorice.

Magnesite; inagnesium; magnesium acetate, aluminium silicate, carbonate heavy, carbonate light, chloride, glycerophosphate, hypophosphite, oxide, sulphate, trisilicate; manganese; manganese carbonate, glycerophosphate, sulphate; menthol; mustard bran; myrrh.

Nettle; nicotinamide; nicotinic acid; noscapine hydrochloride (1 per cent internal); oak; oleic acid; ox bile.

Palm kernel oil; pancreatin; pantothenic acid; panthothenol; paracetamol (maximum amount per tablet 500 mg, maximum number of tablets per pack 25); paraffin liquid; peppermint; peppermint oil; phenol (1 per cent internal, 2·5 per cent external); phenolphthalein BP (maximum amount per

Continued on p188

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NI Council concerned about functions of new health body

Concern at the lack of available information about the functions of the new Health and Social Services Council was expressed at the July Council meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland.

Discussing a paper on the Central Advisory Machinery for Health and Social Services, Mr J. Chambers said that previous explanatory literature had made no mention of the functions. It had been understood that certain Committees would have direct access to the Ministry of Health, but the paper seemed to indicate that contact would be through the new Council. The Ministry is to be asked how the new Council fitted in with the rest of the health services, pharmacy in particular.

An Education Committee recommendation concerning the training of pharmacy technicians was discussed. The committee had looked at the use of technicians in hospitals and the lack of career structure—no courses or examinations were avail-

able to help improve the status and salary of technicians. The Committee recommended an approach to the Ministry of Health with a view to the recognition of certain subjects at ONC level and practical pharmaceutical instruction being given by a pharmacist. Professor D'Arcy doubted if there were sufficient numbers for a continuous course for pharmacy technicians.

The Committee also recommended that in normal circumstances a hospital pharmacist would not be able to supervise more than one technician but, depending on the type of work being undertaken, the Area pharmacist could be asked to decide whether the number might be two.

Arising out of a letter from Mr W. S. Hall, convenor of the joint-subcommittee on the restructuring of the health and personal social services, the question of chief area pharmaceutical officers was discussed. Mr Kerr said he was rather perturbed that the area pharmaceutical officer was a hospital pharmacist, fully employed

on hospital work and asked who was to act for chemist contractors. He was anxious to know who would "bridge the gap" between contractors and the area boards.

The Law Committee report recommended that the Society's solicitor be asked to advise on the legality of using the word "chemist" in the title of a body corporate carrying on the business of a pharmaceutical chemist. Mr Gray said that in the relevant sections of the Medicines, Pharmacy and Poisons Act (Northern Ireland) 1945 a distinction was made between the use of certain titles and the use of particular descriptions. It seemed to the Committee that the title of "chemist" was reserved for a proprietor pharmacist. The exception to this provision was that a body corporate, where the superintendent was a member of the board, could use the description of "pharmaceutical chemist" or "dispensing chemist" and, in connexion with the business, any of the descriptions "pharmacy", "medical hall", "drug hall" or "drug store".

The secretary pointed out that under the Regulations made recently the examination in forensic pharmacy would be taken only by students who had been graduates for more than five years before applying for registration. After discussion it was agreed to nominate W. Woodside, MSc, PhD, MPS, as the examiner for the year ending December 31, 1974.

Mr D. F. McCafferty is to be awarded the C. W. Young Scholarship.

New suncream

concluded from p179

with the lamp at 15 inches for 20 minutes. None of the patients reacted to Wratten 2B filter after irradiation for 20 minutes at 15 inches.

The minimal perceptible erythema time, according to the manufacturers, for normal persons is 15-20 minutes.

Evaluation of special formulation

The new compound used was 4-(3', 4'-methylene-dioxobenzylidene)-1-benzyl-2,3-dioxopyrrolidine (MBP) (Fig. 3), first described by Singh and Sugden¹⁸ and tested for pharmacological activity by Allen & Hanburys Ltd, when it was found to be inactive

the formulation as it possesses a reasonably high molecular extinction throughout the UV B and up to 350nm in the UV A.

The major disadvantage of the special compound was its yellow colour. While we have found titanium dioxide powder of little protective value, its combination with the special compound in conjunction with burnt sugar solution successfully masked the yellow colour. The powders were mixed in Uvistat cream to which a further 6 per cent Uvistat 2211 had been added.

Patients were treated with the special screen formulation and Uvistat 2211 10 per cent (approx. 1g in 9cm³) and the protective affects compared with a control using the bottom two lines of patches on the screen.

Evaluation of Table 3 indicated that patients 1, 2 and 3 were particularly well protected by the special formulation. This result confirmed the results in Table 2 dealing with filters and wavelength sensitivity and serves to explain why Uvistat 2211 10 per cent gave only minimal protection. Patient 1 was not protected when the special compound was used alone and likewise when titanium dioxide was used alone. It is worthy of note that while this patient was so critically affected by sunlight he was able to withstand the September Spanish sunshine for some twenty minutes without untoward facial effects. Patient 3 was able, for the first time, to drive in bright sunshine without any untoward facial effects. Patients 4 and 6 were not protected to any greater extent by the special screen formulation as compared with Uvistat 2211 10 per cent. This confirmed their sensitivity in the UV B and possibly the low UV A.

The light protective factor is the quotient of the exposure time until occurrence of perceptible erythema with the protective preparation against the minimal perceptive

erythema time without the preparation. The following protective factors are usually taken:—0·1·5 (poor), 1·5-2·0 (moderate), 2·5-3·0 (good), 4·0 and above (very good).

Readers will note the very high protective factors obtained for the special screen formulation for patients 1, 2 and 3. It can reasonably be suggested that this screen would be suitable for patients who display abnormal sensitivity in the UV B and long UV A.

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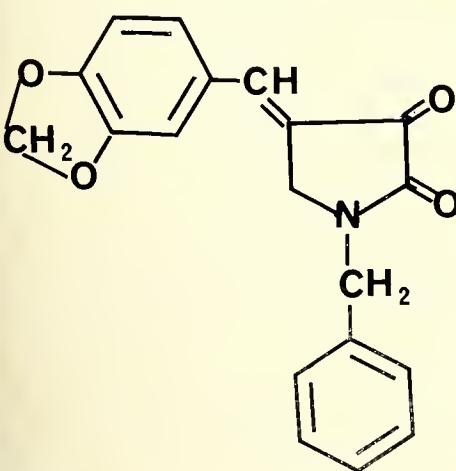


Figure 3

in all tests. The compound possessed a very high molecular extinction in the UV A of 2.9×10^4 at 369nm and 3.0×10^3 at 385nm in ethanol. The compound appeared to be of use where patients were sensitive to the long UV A. Uvistat 2211 was also added to

Market News

DEARER CHEMICALS

London, August 8: A number of pharmaceutical chemicals were advanced in price during the week. They included quinine, quinidine, tartaric acid, iodide and iodine and sulphadiazine. One supplier of tartaric acid is advising its customers to reformulate their products with citric acid as it forecasts further shortages of argols and even higher prices in the future. Japan has been increasing the rates for crude iodine some of the difference being accounted for by currency differentials. The gap between Japanese and Chilean material has thus been narrowing.

Among crude drugs all balsams were marked up. Cape aloes was nominal in both positions while Curaçao was again firmer. Gentian root moved up by £40 ton and Brazilian menthol by £0.30kg. Pepper was actively traded in as a hedge for inflation but lost ground on the week.

Dearer in essential oils were camphor white, clove leaf and Brazilian peppermint. Lemongrass was on offer again on spot as the forward rate eased slightly. Also lower was patchouli.

Pharmaceutical chemicals

Glycerin: BP per metric ton—5-ton lots £244; 1-ton £247; 250-kg £253, in chargeable drums.

Iodides: (per kg) Ammonium £4.35 (50-kg); potassium £2.31 (50-kg) £2.29 (250-kg); sodium £2.96 (50-kg).

Iodine: Chilean crude £2.08½ per kg; resublimed £3.07 in 50-kilo lots.

Magnesium trisilicate: £470 metric ton.

Mercurochrome: £7.95 per kg.

Mercury salts: Per kg in 50-kg lots; ammoniated powder £5.15; oxides—yellow £5.90 and red £6.10, perchloride £4.30; subchloride £5.45; iodides £5.70 kg for 25-kg.

Quinidine: (10-kg lots per kg), alkaloid £54.20; sulphate £52.75.

Quinine: per kg in 85-kg lots) alkaloid £40.75; bisulphate £32.50; dihydrochloride £39.75; hydrochloride £39.00; sulphate £35.00; hydrobromide (10-kg) £39.90.

Sorbitol: Powder £370 metric ton for over 250 kg; syrup to £152.

Tartaric acid: (per metric ton) 50-kg lots £638; 250-kg £633, 1-ton £624.

Sulphadiazine: 50-kg lots £3.50 kg.

Crude drugs

Aloes: (metric ton) Cape spot and shipment nominal; Curacao £750, cif; shipment £720, cif.

Balsams: (kg) Canada £4.70 nominal; shipment no offers. **Copaiba:** BPC £1.40 Para. £0.90. **Peru** £2.35; £2.25, cif. **Tolu:** BP £1.80, spot.

Gentian: Root £600 metric ton spot; £585, cif.

Henbane: Niger £1,500 metric ton, cif.

Menthol: (kg) Chinese spot £7.50; shipment £6.90, cif. Brazilian spot £5.85; £5.80, cif.

Pepper: (ton cif) Sarawak black £605; white £985.

Sarsaparilla: Spot £1.18 kg; £1.14½, £1.16½, cif.

Essential oils

Camphor white: £0.80 kg; £0.75 cif.

Clove: Madagascar leaf £2.15 kg spot; £2.10, cif. English distilled bud £17.50.

Lemongrass: £3.00 kg; £2.50, cif.

Patchouli: Spot £6.50 kg spot; £6.75, cif.

Peppermint: (per kg) Arvensis Chinese £3.85 kg spot; £2.90, cif; Brazilian £2.55 spot and cif. American piperita firm at £7.50-£8 spot.

Pimento: Berry £5.30 kg; leaf £4.60.

Petitgrain: Spot £7.00; cif. £6.60.

Pine: (kg) Pumilloni £1.75; *sylvestris* £0.51.

Sandalwood: Mysore £35 kg spot.

Sassafras: Not offering.

Spearmint: Chinese £7.00 spot; £6.30, cif. American £6.50—all per kg.

The prices given are those obtained by importers or manufacturers for bulk quantities and do not include value added tax.

Animal medicines general sales list

Continued from p185

tablet 120 mg); phosphoric acid (5 per cent internal); phosphorus (as phosphates) (equivalent to 11 per cent elemental phosphorus); pimento oil; pine tar; poke root; polyglyceryl ricinoleate; poplar bark; potassium; potassium, acetate, acid phosphate, bicarbonate, carbonate, chloride, citrate, glycerophosphate, hydrogenphthalate, hypophosphate, hypophosphite, iodate, iodide, nitrate, sulphate; pumilio oil; pyridoxine; pyridoxine hydrochloride. Quassia; quillaia.

Rapeseed oil; raspberry leaves; red-poppy petal; rhubarb rhizome; riboflavin; riboflavin phosphate; rose hip; rosemary oil; rue oil.

Safflower oil; salicylamide (maximum amount per tablet 300 mg); sambuci, oil; sassafras oil; scutellaria; senna fruit; senna leaf; silica; silver colloidal (in products for the treatment of fish only); silver protein; slippery elm bark (powdered); sodium (as sodium chloride); sodium acetate, acid phosphate, alginate, benzoate (1.2 per cent internal, 1.2 per cent external); bicarbonate, carbonate, chloride, citrate, dibunate, glutamate, glycerophosphate, hypophosphite, iodide, lactate, metasilicate, nitrate, phosphate, potassium tartrate, propionate, salicylate (3 per cent internal), sulphate, dioctyl sulphosuccinate, tauroglycocholate, thiosulphate; squill, white (only as an expectorant in cough medicines); styrax BP; sulphur; sulphur, flowers of; sulphuric acid dilute BPC).

Tannic acid; tansy; terpin hydrate; thiamine; thiamine hydrochloride; thiamine mononitrate; thyme oil; thymol; tilia; tocopherol acetate; tolu balsam; tormentil root. Urea.

Valerian; verbena oil; vitamin A (maximum daily recommended dose: 2,000 iu); vitamin D (maximum daily recommended dose 200 iu).

Wheat germ; wheat germ oil.

Zinc; zinc carbonate, sulphate (equivalent to 0.5 per cent elemental zinc).

External only list

Substances recommended for inclusion in the first general sale list of medicines for the treatment of animals when in products marketed for external use only (proposed maximum strength in parenthesis):

Acetone; acriflavine; alkyl aryl trimethyl ammonium chloride; alum; aminacrine hydrochloride; amyl acetate; anthracine oil. Benzalkonium chloride; benzethonium chloride; benzyl alcohol; benzyl cresol; beta naphthol (5 per cent); bismuth subgallate; borax (5 per cent); boric acid (5 per cent); butoxyethyl nicotinate.

Cade oil; calamine; calcium sulphate; camphor; canada balsam; capsicum oleoresin; cetrime; chloramine; chlorhexidine; chlorhexidine acetate, gluconate, hydrochloride; chlorine; chlorocresol; chlorophenoxyethanol; chloroxylenol; citronella oil; clioquinol; coal tar; coal tar solution; coal tar phenols (2.5 per cent); colophony; copper and its salts (5 per cent); crystal violet.

Dibutyl phthalate; dichlorobenzene; dichlorobenzyl alcohol; dichlorophen; dichloroxylenol; diethyl phthalate; diethyl toluamide; dimethyl phthalate.

Ethyl hexanediol; eugenol; fatty acid soap base; fatty and rosin acids; fentichlor; fluorescein sodium; gamma benzene hexachloride (0.1 per cent).

Halazone; halquinol; hamamelis; hexylresorcinol (0.15 per cent).

Ichthammol; iodoform; iodophors; isopropyl alcohol; lauryl dimethyl benzalkonium chloride; lignocaine hydrochloride (0.7 per cent).

Melaleuca oil; methyl salicylate; methargen; methyl alcohol; methyl salicylate; methylated ether; methylated spirits (mineralised); methylated spirits (industrial); mustard oil.

Neatsfoot oil; octaphonium chloride.

Peru, balsam of; phenoxyethanol; piclorxydine; pine oil; polyhexanide; povidone-iodine; potassium dichromate; potassium hydroxyquinoline sulphate; potassium hydroxide (17 per cent); potassium permanganate; proflavine; proflavine hemisulphate; pyridine bases; pyroxylin; ricinoleic acid; rubidium chloride (0.22 per cent).

Salicylic acid (dusting powder 3 per cent, cream or ointment 2 per cent); salol; scarlet red BPC; soap, liquid; soap, soft; sodium dichloroisocyanurate; sodium dichlorophene, hydroxide (12 per cent); hypochlorite, polymetaphosphate, secondary alkyl sulphate, silicate; sulphonated castor oil; surgical spirit.

Tar; terebene; terpineol; tetrasodium pyrophosphate; turpentine oil.

Undecylenic acid; vanillylnonamide (5 per cent); xylenol chlorinated (5 per cent); zinc carbonate (13 per cent); zinc oxide; zinc sulphate (25 per cent).

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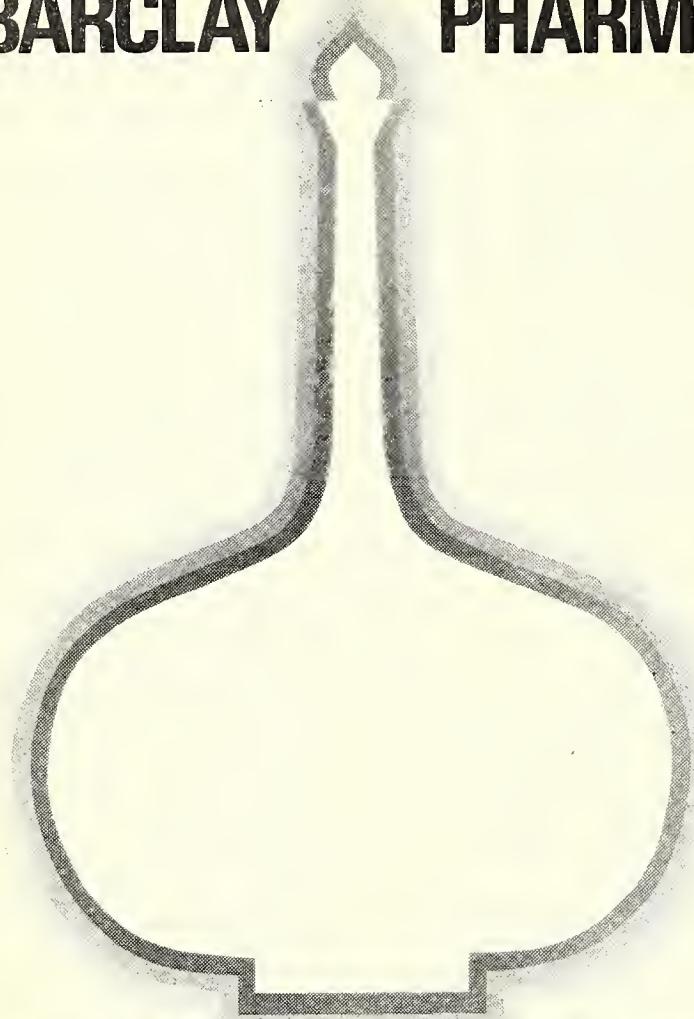
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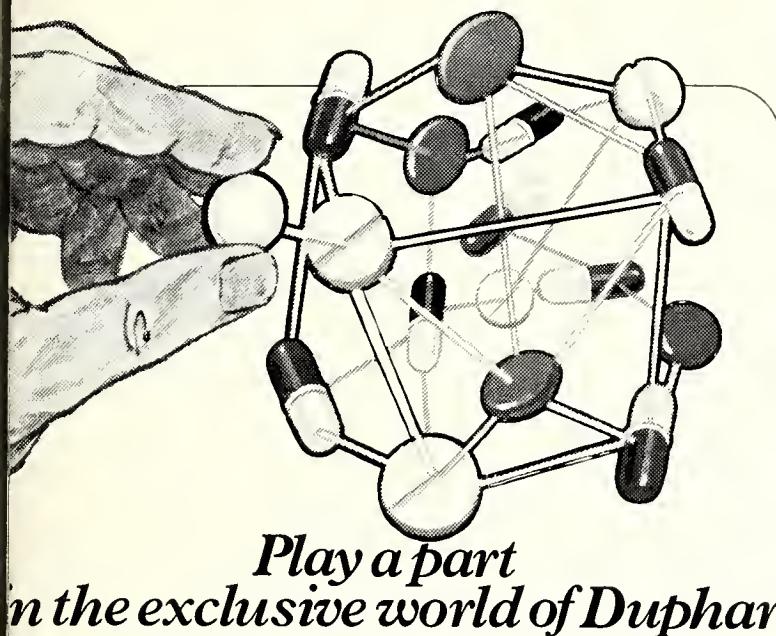
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